

Planner's Update

News that planners can use

June 2005

Issue Three

Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development

Growth Management Services

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Greetings!

Much has happened since the last issue of this newsletter! The 2005 Legislature has convened, with several amendments to the Growth Management Act (GMA) being signed into law. Many cities and counties have completed their GMA update work, while others are starting their update process. This issue of the Planner's Update contains important and useful information on these and other planning topics.

I would like to extend our thanks to local governments that responded to our customer service survey conducted by e-mail in April. We were very pleased at the number of responses we received, and the valuable comments that you included. Overall, the survey showed that GMS is providing helpful services to local governments, but there are additional areas where assistance is desired. The results of this survey will be used in creating our 2005-07 work program. Please feel free to call us (360) 725-3000 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Leonard Bauer, Managing Director
Growth Management Services

2005 and 2006 GMA Update Workshops

Growth Management Services is presenting eight workshops to help answer your questions related to the update of Growth Management Comprehensive Plans, Development Regulations, and/or Critical Area Ordinances. The workshops are intended for those jurisdictions required to update these items by December 1, 2005 or 2006, and are scheduled for:

May 24 – Napavine (Lewis County)

May 26 – Mt. Vernon

June 1 – Ellensburg

June 2 – Yakima

June 3 – Kennewick

June 14 – Spokane

June 15 – Moses Lake

June 16 – Leavenworth

(Note: If you missed the workshop in your area, or cannot attend any of the workshops, please contact Lynn Kohn at (360) 725-3042 to receive copies of materials used at the workshops. You may also contact your GMS staff planner to discuss questions about the GMA updates.)

The workshops are designed to be interactive. Planners, Clerks, Planning Commissioners, Elected Officials and Consultants involved in the planning for your update are

invited to attend. CTED and other state agency representatives will provide advice and resources, but we would also like to hear from you about your major issues. Other jurisdictions will share how they have dealt with similar issues and we will explore resource-sharing options. Please come prepared to share what has worked well during your update process, what resources have been most helpful, and what roadblocks you encountered. The workshops will include information on:

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- GMA update procedural issues.
- Issues, resources and lessons learned from the 2004 updates.
- Assistance on a variety of topics (see examples of topic table choices on next page).
- GMA update grants and other funding and resource opportunities.

To register or get more information, contact:

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GMA Update Checklists – A Helpful Tool Just Got More Useful

Growth Management Services has updated its checklists for comprehensive plans and development regulations. The checklists have been cited by many cities and counties as one of the most useful tools available for reviewing their plans and regulations to determine if revisions are needed. The checklists are available on the GMA Update page of our Web site at www.cted.wa.gov/growth, or by calling (360) 725-3000.

The checklists have now been updated to:

- Include all amendments to the Growth Management Act through 2005.
- Incorporate references and links to additional information on key topics.
- Add a list of helpful resources available from state agencies and other sources.

2005 Legislative Changes

As has happened every year since it was adopted in 1990, the Growth Management Act was amended by several bills passed by the 2005 Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gregoire. Probably the one bill of most interest to planners is ESHB 2171, which adjusts the deadlines for required updates to critical areas ordinances. Counties and cities that must review and, if necessary, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations by December 1, 2005, 2006, and 2007, are granted an additional year beyond those dates to update their critical areas regulations. This effectively means that these jurisdictions have two different deadlines for their updates – one for comprehensive plans and development regulations, and a second one a year later for critical areas regulations.

It also provides an additional twelve months for counties and cities to remain eligible for grants or loans from the Public Works Trust Fund and Centennial Clean Water Fund beyond their established GMA update deadlines. This includes jurisdictions whose deadline was December 1, 2004. However, only counties and cities that complied with that deadline may receive preference for those grants or loans.

Other bills that affect planning are summarized below. They can be viewed on the Washington Legislature's Web site at www.leg.wa.gov.

5186
Increasing the Physical Activity of the Citizens of Washington State – Requires that the transportation element of a

comprehensive plan include a pedestrian and bicycle component to identify planned improvements for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

1565
Addressing Transportation Concurrency Strategies – Requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to administer a study to examine Multimodal transportation improvements or strategies to comply with the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act. Requires the study to be completed by one or more regional transportation planning organizations electing to participate in the study. Requires the DOT to submit a report of findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2006.

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1631

Using Revenues under the County Conservation Futures Levy –

Allows a county to spend a maximum of 15 percent of a conservation futures levy fund for maintaining and operating property acquired with the fund. Requires a county to adopt measures to increase the capacity of land to enable housing and employment growth when conservation futures land acquisitions cause a reduction in a county's capacity to accommodate planned growth.

2081

Creating an Aquatic Rehabilitation Zone Designation as a Framework for Hood Canal Recovery Programs – Establishes the first aquatic rehabilitation zone for marine waters posing serious environmental or public health concerns for watersheds draining into Hood Canal.

2097

Establishing a Management Program for Hood Canal Rehabilitation – Authorizes a program for Hood Canal rehabilitation.

2124

Increasing State Participation in Public Transportation Service and Planning – Creates the Office of Transit Mobility in the Department of Transportation to coordinate transit service and planning to maximize opportunities for using public transportation to increase corridor efficiency.

2241

Authorizing Limited Recreational Activities, Playing Fields, and Supporting Facilities Existing Before July 1, 2004, on Designated Agricultural Lands (in Snohomish

County only) – Authorizes the legislative authority of Snohomish County to, until June 30, 2006, designate qualifying agricultural lands as recreational lands. Establishes designation criteria, including specifying that qualifying agricultural lands must have playing fields and supporting facilities existing before July 1, 2004, and must not be in use for commercial agricultural production. Specifies activities that may be allowed on designated recreational lands.

5121

Assessing Long-term Air Transportation Needs – Directs the Aviation Division of the Department of Transportation to conduct an airport capacity and facilities assessment by June 30, 2006, and a 25-year capacity and facilities market analysis by June 30, 2007. After completion of the reports, the Governor is to appoint a ten-member Aviation Planning Council to make recommendations on future aviation and capacity needs. The council expires July 1, 2009.

5396

Expanding the Criteria for Habitat Conservation Programs – Adds two new categories to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for farmlands preservation and riparian protection and establishes a formula for allocating moneys to the new accounts.

5513

Restructuring the State Department of Transportation – Governor appoints Secretary of Transportation, with consent of Senate. Secretary assumes authority to propose the agency budget and

authorize departmental request legislation.

5589

Providing for Proceedings for Excluding Agricultural Land from the Boundaries of a Charter or Noncharter Code City – Creates a method for property owners of agricultural land located within a code city to petition for exclusion from the incorporated area.

5620

Providing for Priority Consideration for Lands Used as Buffers in Planning – Requires counties to give priority consideration to buffers planted in native vegetation when adopting open space plans, public benefit rating systems, and assessed valuation schedules under the Open Space Taxation Act.

5775

Authorizing the Creation of a Small City or Town Street and Sidewalk Improvement Program – To be administered by the Transportation Improvement Board and funded through a special account, subject to legislative appropriations.

6037

Modifies Growth Management Act provisions pertaining to permitted public services and facilities in qualifying limited areas of more intensive rural development. Expires on August 31, 2005.

CFP Template: A New Tool from CTED to Help Jurisdictions with Capital Facilities Planning

How well is your jurisdiction able to prioritize a variety of capital projects in light of a shrinking budget? The Capital Facilities Planning (CFP) Template from Growth Management Services (GMS), developed in coordination with the City of Olympia, may be the tool for your jurisdiction! It is designed to use policies from your comprehensive plan to guide CFP development – from conceptual projects, through the rating and

ranking of the projects across programs, to the production of a formatted CFP document and presentation graphics.

This spring, in four locations across the state, CTED staff trained 33 jurisdictions on how to use the CFP Template. This inaugural training is being followed up with one-on-one support and additional training as needed. CTED plans to provide CFP Template training annually,

giving priority to cities and towns with a population less than 5,000 and counties with a population less than 50,000. For more information on the Template, call GMS at 360-725-3000, e-mail at cfptemplate@cted.wa.gov or go to the GMS Web page: www.cted.wa.gov/growth, click on GMA Topics, go to Capital Facilities Planning and a Capital Facilities Planning Template button will pop up.

Wetlands Update – Best Available Science

The following is an update from the Washington State Department of Ecology on the status of *Wetlands in Washington State - Volume 2: Guidance for Protecting and Managing Wetlands*. This and *Volume 1* are jointly sponsored by the state departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife and funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The final version of *Wetlands in Washington State - Volume 2: Guidance for Protecting and Managing Wetlands* can now be downloaded from the project's Web site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/bas_wetlands. The document has been divided into pdf files that can be individually downloaded due to the large size of the document. The document can also be downloaded in its entirety by going to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0506008.html>.

The Responses to Comments on the draft of Volume 2 will be available from the project's Web site or directly

at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0506009.html>.

We encourage you to download the document from our web page to save on postage and other resources. Paper copies of Volume 1 are currently available. Paper copies of Volume 2 and the responses to comments for both volumes, as well as a CD containing all four documents will be available soon. You can request a paper copy of Volume 1 by contacting the Ecology Publications Distribution Office. (Note: there is a charge for paper copies of both Volumes for those living and working outside of Washington State.) When requesting publications from our distribution office, please use the contact information below and indicate the publication #(s) of the document(s) you are requesting.

Ecology Publications Distribution Office, Jean Witt, PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600, (360) 407-7472, jewi461@ecy.wa.gov.

- Wetlands in Washington State: Volume 1- A Synthesis of the Science (Publication # 05-06-006)
- Responses to Comments on Volume 1 (Publication # 05-06-007)
- Wetlands in Washington State: Volume 2 - Guidance for Protecting and Managing Wetlands (Publication #05-06-008)
- Responses to Comments on Volume 2 (Publication # 05-06-009)

Please contact Dana Mock at (360) 407-6947 or dmoc461@ecy.wa.gov if you have any questions.

Regional Planners' New Guidebooks Forums Available

On behalf of our partners, the Planning Association of Washington and the Washington Chapter of American Planning Association, I want to invite you to attend one of the four regional Summer 2005 Planners' Forums.

Eastern Region, Moses Lake

July 20, 2005
Best Western Hallmark Inn
I-90 Exit 176

Northwest Region, Mount Vernon

July 27, 2005
Skagit Station
105 East Kincaid Street

Olympic Region, Port Orchard

July 28, 2005
Long Lake Community Center
5448 Long Lake Road SE

Southwest Region, Vancouver

August 4, 2005
Vancouver City Hall
210 East 13th Street

NOTE: All forums will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with lunch on your own.

For more information, contact Ted Gage at (360) 725-3049.

Three new guidebooks are now available from Growth Management Services to assist local governments.

Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Your Community is a joint project with the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), which provides a major source of grant funding for parks and recreation facilities. It is an updated version of CTED's 1992 guidebook, and includes information that will help counties and cities develop parks plans that will meet the GMA requirements of RCW 36.70A.070(8) and the planning requirements for grant funding from IAC.

Another updated CTED guidebook is *Historic Preservation: A Tool for Managing Growth*. It will help jurisdictions recognize, inventory and protect their historic resources, and plan to take full advantage of these resources by featuring them in comprehensive planning for the community's future.

Technical Guidance Document for Clearing and Grading In Western Washington provides technical assistance to local governments to adopt programs to minimize potential adverse impacts of clearing and grading. It describes optional approaches to addressing these important issues, and includes detailed information on best management practices such as low-impact development techniques.

In addition to these three new guidebooks, CTED is in the process of updating *Economic Development Through Growth Management: Making the Vision a Reality*. The guidebook is being updated in

coordination with the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) and other economic development professionals to emphasize how a county or city comprehensive plan can pave the way for its local or regional economic development strategy.

Share Your Success Stories

One of Growth Management Services' most important roles is to share how communities all over Washington have improved their communities through thoughtful and visionary planning. To share these stories more broadly, we have begun to provide monthly "story leads" to reporters all over Washington. Each month we will provide a brief description of several communities that have successfully achieved significant planning goals that have benefited their citizens. The story leads include contact information of a key person in the local community, so reporters can get more information if they wish to feature the story.

If you have ever been disappointed at how little your local media pay attention to the planning success stories in your community, this is your chance to shine the spotlight on them! Call or e-mail Rita Robison at (360) 725-3060 or ritar@cted.wa.gov with a brief description of a success story in your community.